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case of *Sambucus* (GUIGNARD) and *Indigofera* (TREUB) being exceptions. The amount diminishes regularly with age in most cases, though there are not wanting examples where the amount remains nearly constant until late in the life of the leaf, when it suddenly disappears. Since distillation after maceration yields more HCN than direct distillation, it is evident that a part at least, and as experiments indicate most or all, of the HCN exists in the form of a glucoside which is split up by an enzyme. No matter how quickly the killing and distillation is carried on, the glucoside is hydrolyzed, so that the enzyme acts with "astonishing rapidity." Some study was made of the enzymes concerned, but these must be worked out later. That HCN is a reserve is shown by the fact that in plants put into obscurity sufficient to preclude photosynthesis, HCN diminishes after the third day; and when the same plants are brought out into the light again it increases. Further, the maximum content of HCN occurs at midday. Light is influential only because it provides for the making of glucose, which is necessary to the formation of the glucoside.

In a second short paper TREUB¹⁹ disposes of the contention that the rôle of HCN is that of protection against animals.—C. R. B.

Taxonomic notes.—C. WARNSTORF (*Hedwigia* 47:76-112. 1907), in a series of descriptions of new species of *Sphagnum*, includes 4 from the United States: *S. missouricum* (Missouri), *S. Bushii* and *S. alabamæ* (Alabama), and *S. Evansii* (New Jersey).—LEROY ABRAMS (*Torreya* 7:217-219. fig. 1. 1907) has described a new maple (*A. bernardinum*) from the San Bernardino Mountains of California.—W. A. SETCHELL (*Jour. Mycol.* 13:236-241. pl. 107. 1907) has published new species of hypogaeous fungi (Secotiaceae) under *Secotium* and *Elasmomyces*.—SV. MURBECK (*Lunds Univ. Arsskrift* II. 2: no. 14. pp. 30. pls. 2. 1907) has studied the *vesicarius* group of *Rumex*, recognizing 3 forms under *R. vesicarius* L.; separating *R. planivalvis*, *R. simpliciflorus* (3 forms), *R. vesceritensis*, and *R. cyprius* as new species; and characterizing *R. roseus* L.—W. TRELEASE (*Ann. Rep. Mo. Bot. Garden* 18:225-230. pls. 12-17. 1907) has described 2 new species and 2 new varieties of *Yucca*; also (*idem* 231-256. pls. 18-34) has published an account of *Agave macroacantha* and allied Euagaves, disentangling an extensive synonymy.—J. R. DRUMMOND (*idem* 25-75. pls. 1-4) has published an account of the literature of *Furcraea* with a synopsis of the known species, recognizing 10 as valid and 6 more as possibly valid but imperfectly known.—A. MAUBLANC (*Bull. Trim. Soc. Mycol. France* 23:146-149. figs. 7. 1907) has described a new genus (*Ceratopycnidium*) of Spheropsidaceae from the Congo.—A. A. HELLER (*Muhlenbergia* 3:133-134. 1907) has reestablished *Chloropyron* Behr with 4 species, heretofore referred to *Cordylanthus* or *Adenostegia*. All the species belong to salt marshes near the Pacific coast or to saline soil in the interior.—J. M. C.

¹⁹ TREUB, M., Notice sur "l'effet protecteur" assigné à l'acide cyanhydrique des plantes. *Ibid.* 197-114. pls. 3, 4. 1907.